

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a three-dimensional woven fabric comprising a surface layer having a woven structure, a back layer have a woven structure, and a bonding layer having a woven structure and corrugated in a wave-like shape in the warp direction.

In the Office Action dated September 18, 2007 it is first of all appreciated that the Examiner indicated that claims 2 - 5, 8, and 11 - 14 were merely objected to, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9 and 10 were indicated as withdrawn from consideration, including for the asserted reasons that claims 9 and 10 contained manipulative method steps which would require a search that is not co-extensive with the search required for the article, but the Examiner also noted that rejoinder would be appropriate upon the allowance of claim 1. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Takenaka et al. Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Takenaka et al. There were no other rejections.

In the present Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claim 5, and incorporated a recitation from claim 5 into claim 1 to further specifically define the composite yarn. Since claim 5 was indicated as allowed, it is respectfully submitted that furthermore claim 1 as well as the claims dependent thereon, are now all in condition for allowance. Of course, in view of the incorporation, claim 5 has now been cancelled. For consistency, claim 14 has been amended to depend on claim 1.

With respect to withdrawn claims 9 and 10, although the Examiner indicated that claims 9 and 10 contain manipulative method steps which requires a search that is not co-extensive with the search required for the article, Applicant respectfully submits that a co-extensive search would be appropriate. In any event, it is appreciated that in the subsequent discussion at page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that upon the allowance of claim 1 herein, claims 9 and 10, withdrawn from consideration as a result of the restriction requirement, would be rejoined with the other claims.

In view of the allowability of independent claim 1 and the other claims, dependent thereon, and in accordance with the Examiner's remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 15 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 15 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

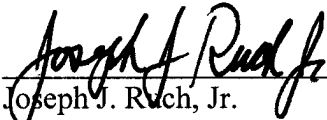
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER



Joseph J. Ruch, Jr.
Registration No. 26,577

Date: December 18, 2007